



Buried Dreams: Inside the Mind of a Serial Killer

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Drawing on exclusive interviews and previously unreported material, journalist Tim Cahill “offers the stuff of wrenching nightmares” (*The Wall Street Journal*): a harrowing journey inside the mind of a serial killer. Meticulously researched and graphically recounted, *Buried Dreams* brings to vivid life the real John Wayne Gacy—his complex personality, compulsions, inadequacies, and torments—often in the killer’s own words.

Called “an absorbing and disturbing story” by *Publishers Weekly* and “surprisingly graceful” by the *New York Times*, this is a journey to the heart of human evil that you will never forget.

Buried Dreams: Inside the Mind of a Serial Killer Details

Date : Published July 15th 2014 by Open Road Media (first published February 1st 1986)

ISBN :

Author : Tim Cahill

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery, Biography, Horror

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From Reader Review Buried Dreams: Inside the Mind of a Serial Killer for online ebook

Quanita says

WOW! I followed the trial on the news like I think most of the country did. This is not a biography, it is putting you in the mind of Gacy. Gacy never felt remorse because he was only being "fatherly" by giving the 30+ boys and young men the "gentle gift of death". GIFT???????? Even the few who got away are permanently scarred. This book will give you the back story that wasn't in the news. If you're not afraid to get into the mind of a serial killer - this book is for you.

Kristina says

Poorly written.

I feel like the research was good but it was a mistake trying to write the book from Gacy's point of view. It was too vulgar and too dark. It would've been better to write it from a unbiased journalistic point of view in my opinion. I didn't finish it.

Tina says

A gruesome scary read, not only because of the events that take place, but because Tim Cahill has written this from Gacy's own viewpoint. To inhabit the brain of a serial killer is truly terrifying. The question "why?" is unequivocally answered - Gacy was delusional, deranged and dangerous. I was also more than horrified by law enforcement failures, from the lack of communication and sharing of information, to the complete disregard (and disrespect) of the few victims who did escape. Can't help but think that Gacy didn't act alone and police just wanted to get this filed away so they weren't scrutinised any further. I seriously wonder who out there knows more and if they will take secrets, and more boys, to the grave with them.

Mark says

Before I read this book I had been familiar with Tim Cahill's writing for *Outside* magazine. I'm not really sure what drew me to read this account of the horrific crimes of John Wayne Gacy, but in some respects I wish I had not. During the period I read this I was interested in what made these type of killers tick, but I don't know if that's even possible. Cahill is a fine writer and maybe that part of the problem. Scenes from this book that I'd rather forget still come back to me sometimes. The true crimes of John Wayne Gacy are more disturbing than anything Stephen King could think up. These days movies like *Hostel* and *Saw* seem to indicate that people are now entertained by sadistic torture. The current entertainment value of torture, ultimate fighting and war disturbs me as much as having to read the accounts of Gacy burying boys in his basement.

Clint says

Whoo-wee John Wayne Gacy was fucked UP, if you didn't already know. I feel like I need to wash my brain pan out with bleach after finishing this.

The style is the main problem I have with this, written in third person in the "voice" Gacy would have used were he writing about... himself.... in third person. It was just weird, and while it may have given me a much better idea of his personality, it was just a bizarre way to write a biography or true crime book, and I think a book like this can't really be used for reference in research, it's too much like a novel, more so than any other true crime I've read. "In understanding the crimes committed by John Wayne Face, I found it was necessary to learn to think like John Wayne Gacy. This is neither pleasant for entirely healthy. We are diving into some dark and chilly psychic waters here. The reader may feel claustrophobic, may feel trapped inside the killer's mind, as I did in writing this book." Hahahahahaha!!!!

That being said, the writer is very talented, and the preview of the author's "new" book, in 1987, makes me actually want to see if it's still in print.

Other points of interest:

Gacy was ALMOST a priest, which wouldn't be very surprising.

"'You bite my dick and I'll cut your fucking balls off,' he says, and this makes him smile again: it is another hollow joke, hauled up out of darkness like some eyeless and primitive thing found in a fisherman's net."

"In the male homosexual, the doctor said, 'there is the obvious elimination of the castration fear because... the sexual partner has a fetish, and you are not threatened by the idea of a penisless object..."

HAHAHAHAHAH.

"The necrophiliac 'tends to collect corpses as a fetishism expression of necrophilia and as a way of assuring himself of the fact that people love him. He has... all these bodies, people who supposedly loved him and cared for him and then he feels better... because he has... representations of a lot of people that care for him." Uh, ok.

Here's the funniest one. "Some of the jurors were looking back -- the guy with the moustache, the blond-haired guy John figured was 'liberal' because he was blond..." That's so funny to me for some reason.

Vanessa says

Great Book

Very interesting book i learned new things i didn't know about gacy. I will definitely recommend it is very well worth it.

Dena says

Parts of this were interesting...? But wow, was it terribly written. The tone Cahill uses and the sloppy, crass slang...I just didn't get it. What an odd way to present a "biography" on one of America's most notorious freaks. I read on despite my misgivings and learned a few things about the investigation and trial. I'm bored even writing this review. Whatever. I needed an ebook on my screen and that's what I got.

Sarah Pierce says

This is the story of John Wayne Gacy, one of America's most prolific and famous serial killers. Cahill wrote this book using Russ Ewing's extensive coverage of the case, including several interviews with Gacy himself. The man who murdered at least thirty-three young men and buried most of them in the crawlspace of his house seemed like an upstanding citizen, of course. This book is fascinating and horrifying, and very well-written.

Brittany says

It was a very good book as its based on a true story. I thought it could of been written a little bit better (the timeline jumped back and forth way to much, and it was unnecesary).

Frank Watson says

Tim Cahill attempts to do the impossible in BURIED DREAMS INSIDE THE MIND OF JOHN WAYNE GACY: He attempts to get inside the head of a serial killer in his own words.

Cahill explains in his introduction: "In understanding the crimes committed by John Wayne Gacy, I found it was necessary to learn to think like John Wayne Gacy...I have tried to present a picture of a man's mind, in his own style of speech, often in his own words. I wanted to put the reader inside that mind—the mind of the murderer..."

In this Cahill has succeeded very well. At times I felt dirty, slightly disoriented, even paranoid as I read about Gacy's 33 murders, the torture, his sheer craziness (so it seems to me and perhaps most "normal" persons).

It also raises disturbing questions as to what is "normal" and what is "insane" in the human mind. These are questions difficult to answer because the terms in the questions themselves are difficult to define. What is normal? What is insane? Cahill tries to explain as follows:

"A psychiatrist or psychologist can define the symptoms of the disorder, but because the sociopath is propelled by choice rather than illness, the concept becomes almost philosophical, even theological. In discussing sociopathic personalities, one is forced to deal with such abstractions as the idea of free will; in extreme cases, the sociopath brings some of the people he meets face to face with the very nature of evil itself."

Cahill also shares these disquieting thoughts:

“I suspect that the majority of readers—those whose lives never touched John Wayne Gacy’s—share, at the outset, my original belief that anyone committing such incomprehensibly cruel crimes must necessarily be insane. But if John Gacy is sane, as those who prosecuted him argued—if the pattern is not symptomatic of mental disease but is rather a rational criminal’s ‘method of operation’—we are confronted with an intensely disturbing moral and philosophical concept. It is not something we ordinarily care to examine too closely, this idea that evil exists in our world. Confronted with the crimes committed by John Wayne Gacy, decent people cling to the cold conceptual comfort of insanity. One psychologist I spoke with about Mr. Gacy stated this position best: ‘Evil is a medieval superstition.’ Then again, he never personally examined John Wayne Gacy, as the reader of this book is about to do.”

I would normally in a review discuss in more detail some of these questions, concepts, and details contained in the book. After living in the mad house of Gacy’s mind throughout this book, however, I am not sure what I could add. One would have to read the book to reach his or her own conclusions.

In the end, whether we call it insanity or evil, one thing is certain: Something monstrous can and does live in the minds and hearts of some among us.

Anne says

This book is very much a contradiction. It's both repellant and compelling, and forced me to read on through my disgust and anger.

This is the "true" story of John Wayne Gacy, the Clown Killer who murdered 33 boys and young men and buried them under his house. I say "true" because the author has included much of Gacy's defense and obfuscations and justifications, although they are glaringly obvious.

This really is a trip through the horrific funhouse maze that was the mind of this particular killer. I could hardly put it down, but now I need to go shower.

This book contains triggers for rape, abuse, and other horrors. Read carefully.

Carolyn Borel says

I really enjoyed the fact that Tim Cahill didn't not try to go for the sensational/marketing aspect most of those serial killers books are going for. I would say he probably took on the job without prior judgments, and this can be felt in his writing.

Yet, this is a profoundly disturbing book, as it manages to really get "into the mind of a serial killer", and dwell with all of its complexities and layers. This book would be a good recommendation for students in psychology more than criminology actually.

David Muller says

A peek behind the curtain of a damaged man gone mad. Haunting and stark in its revelations.

Fishface says

Fascinating, in a nauseating way. This is the Gacy story, focusing on the defense strategy and trial more or less from Gacy's own point of view, seen darkly through the tangled cobwebs of justification, lies and distortion. Gives a nice, clear picture of how many different psychiatric opinions you can obtain about a single case, most of them dead wrong.

Kimberly Comeau says

A haunting account of John Wayne Gacy, a serial killer who tortured and killed teenaged boys then buried their bodies in the crawl space of his home. "Haunting," because the book is written through the POV of Gacy. This book, as no other book has, has brought me to a clear understanding of what "psychopath" means through Gacy's actions and words rather than through a clinical explanation of the term.

This book also introduced me to Tim Cahill, an exceptional researcher and storyteller who has mastered his craft. I'm now very interested in Cahill's other work.
